

121 Heywood Drive

Glastonbury

CT06033

Feb. 20, 2017

Appropriations Committee

CT State Legislature

Dear Senator Osten, Senator Formica and Representative Walker,

Thank you for your service to the people of Connecticut. I wish to ask you to support the continued funding for our magnet schools.

I have been a teacher at the Glastonbury East Hartford Magnet School since the school opened in 1992. During that first year we brought all our students on one bus to support continued funding for our school. Our senators and representatives responded generously and here we are twenty-five years later making a new request! During that time our school has grown from sixty children in kindergarten, grades one and two to over four hundred students in pre-K. to grade five. There are over one thousand applications for the current lottery.

The Glastonbury East Hartford Magnet School has a proven record of closing the achievement gap. Our alumna includes Ivy League graduates, medical doctors, scientists, engineers, MBAs and journalists.

As an immigrant who lived and worked in Hartford before my appointment at the magnet school, I have experienced the racial and economic isolation within that city. Perhaps the greatest tribute for our magnet school was from a first grader who said, "Our skin is all different colors, but we all have skin."

Please continue to support funding for our magnet schools where our children learn together and celebrate America's rich diversity and our common humanity.

Sincerely,

Lesley Mroz